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County Borough of Wolverhampton.



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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for  
1945.

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R. H. H. JOLLY, M.D. (Lond.), B.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health  
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INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT  
upon the  
HEALTH OF WOLVERHAMPTON  
for the Year 1945  
by  
R. H. H. JOLLY, M. D., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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Health Offices,  
Town Hall,  
Wolverhampton.  
August, 1946.

To the Chairman and members of the Health and Maternity  
and Child Welfare Committees.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Annual Report on the Health Services of Wolverhampton for 1945 is again being presented in an abridged form and the great majority of the tables which appeared in similar reports before the war have been omitted in order to save paper.

1. The mortality statistics for the year are satisfactory. There was a small drop in the birth rate and a slight rise in the general death rate, but these are in each case better than the corresponding figures for the aggregate of the County Boroughs and great towns of England and Wales. (No correction factor has been applied for age and sex distribution)

2. Attention is directed to the continued popularity of the War Time Nurseries and their relative freedom from epidemics of any kind. With a total of 155 places in the three Nurseries, the mean number of places occupied throughout the year was 78%, whilst during the three months of the autumn it rose to 88%.

3. The steady campaign carried out both centrally and locally in favour of immunisation against Diphtheria continues to make headway and is undoubtedly saving lives. Not only is the incidence of Diphtheria in the town being greatly reduced, but the death rate of those attacked by the disease is also lessened. One of the most satisfactory features of the campaign is the increasing number of children under the age of five years—that is, those most susceptible to the disease—whose parents are now agreeing to have them treated.

4. At the time of writing this report a scheme for a comprehensive Health Service is being deliberated in Parliament "designed to secure improvement in the physical and mental health of the people of England and Wales and the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness." Under the new plan the major Local Authorities will relinquish control of hospital services, but will be required to carry out various additional duties in respect of the care of mothers and young children, home nursing, health visiting, ambulance services and the provision of health centres.

A considerable amount of planning will be needed during the next two years if the new National Health Service is to function successfully. The preventive and environmental duties of Local Health Authorities must be linked up with the curative work which is to be supervised and administered by the new Regional Boards. The various clauses of the National Health Bill define in legal terms the broad outline of the new structure, but the final details of its operation will require long and careful thought and preparation by all those who are interested in Social Medicine and the prevention and cure of disease.

Some reference should be made to the lead in this direction which is already being taken locally by the West Midland Hospitals Joint Advisory Council of which Wolverhampton is one of the constituent members. Even though the plans being formulated by this Council for various special

services in the area (e.g. an ambulance service and a paediatric service) may require amendment in order to fit in with the broader schemes of Regional administration soon to be formulated they cannot fail to be helpful.

I should like to call special attention to the valuable help I received last year from Dr. C. Grant, the Senior Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, and from Dr. C. Campbell. Dr. Grant devoted much of her time to the supervision of the War Time Nurseries and to the training of the Probationer Nurses working in them, and it is largely as a result of her efforts that these Nurseries have operated so successfully. Dr. Campbell is recognised by his colleagues in practice as an expert in infectious diseases, and has done most excellent work at the Borough Infectious Hospital. He has also relieved me of a great deal of worry in the disposal of Civil Defence stores and equipment. All the other members of the staff of the Health Department have pulled together with a will and done their best to keep things going until such time as a full staff becomes once more available.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees I would once more express my best thanks for their kindly consideration and for the careful and sympathetic reception they have given to proposals and schemes which have been laid before them from time to time.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. H. H. JOLLY,

Medical Officer of Health.



# WOLVERHAMPTON

DIPHTHERIA OCCURRING IN CHILDREN AGED 0-15 YEARS  
IN RELATION TO EFFECTIVE IMMUNISATION

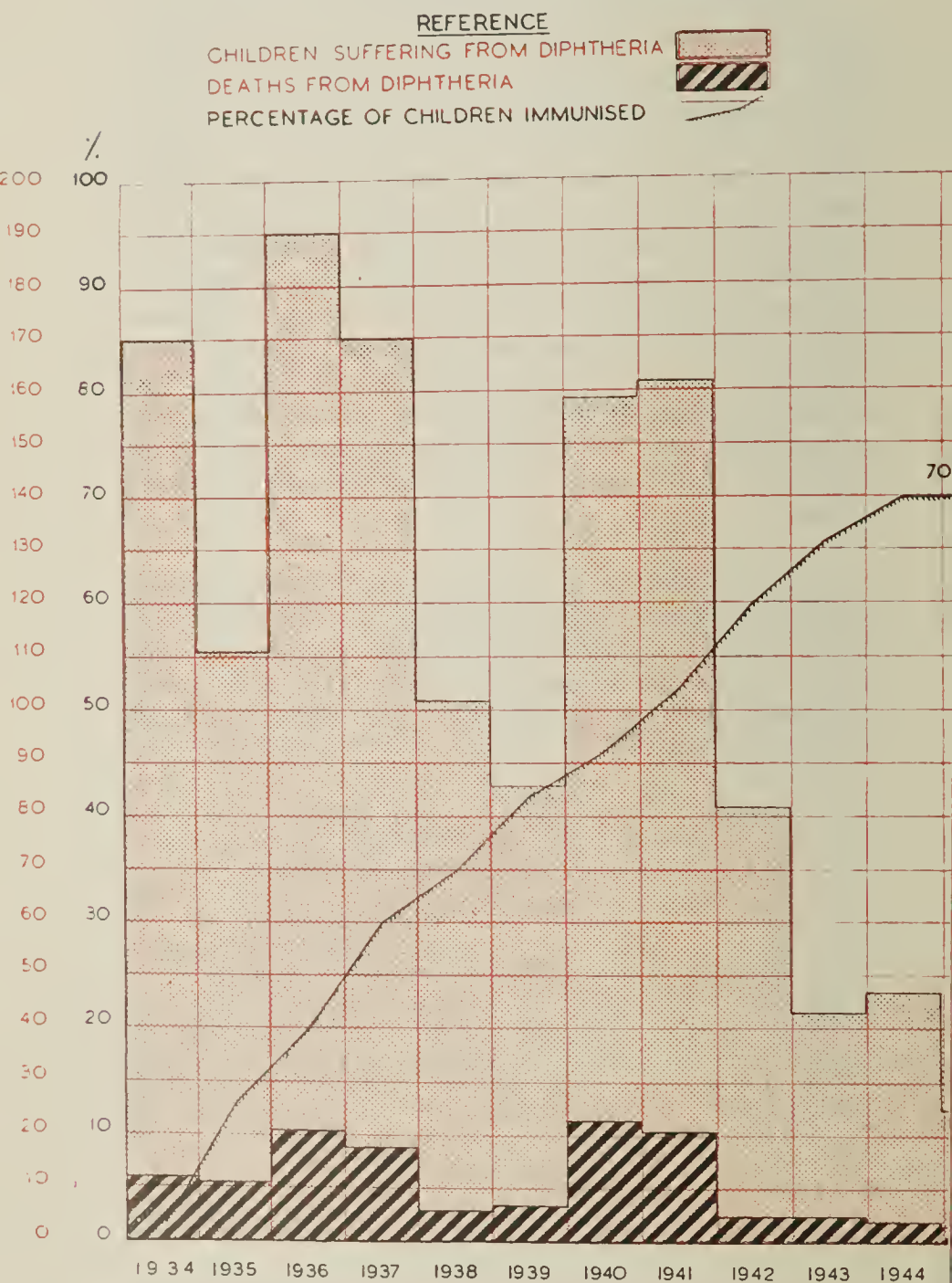




TABLE I.

## SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF  
THE AREA.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

AREA OF BOROUGH	...	...	...	9,113 Acres
POPULATION (Registrar-General's estimate)				146,820
(Census 1931)	...	...		133,212
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1945)				40,542
RATEABLE VALUE	...	...	...	£998,280
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE				£4,018
LIVE BIRTHS.	Total.	Male.	Female.	
Legitimate	2,708	1,362	1,346	Birth-
Illegitimate	210	107	103	rate 19.9
STILL BIRTHS.	83	50	33	
Rate per 1,000 Births	...	...	...	28.4
DEATHS	1,715	892	823	Death-
				rate 11.6
NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION	...			1,203
(Excess of Births over Deaths in the year).				
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.				
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	1	Rate per		0.34
(b) Other Puerperal Causes	5	1,000 Births		1.71
DEATHS OF INFANTS	}	Legitimate (122)		45
UNDER ONE YEAR PER		Illegitimate (19)		90
1,000 BIRTHS.		Total (141)	...	48
DEATH RATE from Measles (4)	...		...	0.02
" " " Whooping Cough (8)	...		...	0.05
" " " Diarrhoea and Enteritis (24)				
(Under 2 years per 1,000 Births)				8.2
" " " Cancer (250)	...	...		1.7
" " " Respiratory Tuberculosis (80)				0.54
" " " all forms of Tuberculosis (91)				0.61

Note:—The figures in the above table are those supplied by the Registrar-General.

TABLE II.  
VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1945 AND 9 PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS. (net.)		DEATHS BELONGING TO DISTRICT.					Total Deaths Registered in the District.		
		No.	Rate.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.					
				No.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	No.	Rate.				
1.	2.	3 & 4.	5	10	11.	12	13	8	9	No.	Rate.
1936	142,400	2,352	16.5	145	62	1,578	11.1	531	75	2,034	14.3
1937	144,000	2,444	16.9	166	68	1,705	11.8	504	84	2,125	14.8
1938	145,300	2,451	16.9	135	55	1,636	11.3	557	90	2,103	14.5
1939	147,200	2,487	16.9	127	51	1,602	11.0	566	93	2,075	14.2
1940	146,300	2,400	16.4	145	60	1,859	13.1	639	101	2,397	16.9
1941	144,920	2,539	17.5	129	50	1,618	11.2	636	96	2,158	14.9
1942	147,200	2,700	18.3	123	46	1,616	11.0	564	112	2,078	14.3
1943	147,230	2,971	20.2	152	51	1,694	11.5	572	89	2,180	14.8
1944	147,150	3,158	21.5	157	50	1,617	11.0	501	76	2,042	13.9
1945	146,820	2,918	19.8	141	48	1,712	12.3	502	97	2,117	14.4

Institutions within the Borough receiving sick and infirm persons from without the Borough: The Royal Hospital; New Cross Hospital; Wolverhampton Borough Hospital; Wolverhampton and Midland Counties Eye Infirmary; Wolverhampton and District Hospital for Women; and The Queen Victoria Nursing Institution.

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1945 (R.G.).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Net Deaths at the subjoined ages of Residents within the Borough.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and over.
All Causes (Certified and Uncertified).	1715	141	29	24	162	445	914
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	3	5	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	2	-	1	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	80	-	-	-	44	31	5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	11	-	3	3	4	1	-
Syphilitic Diseases	7	-	-	-	1	4	2
Influenza	3	-	-	-	-	2	1
Measles	4	-	4	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	2	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cancer of Buccal Cavity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oesophagus and Uterus...	27	-	-	-	1	11	15
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	46	-	-	-	2	13	31
Cancer of Breast	26	-	-	-	3	15	8
Cancer of all other sites	151	-	2	-	12	70	67
Diabetes	12	-	-	-	1	5	6
Intracranial Haemorrhage lesions	205	-	-	-	5	43	157
Heart Disease	433	-	-	1	21	94	317
Other Circulatory Diseases	30	-	-	-	-	5	25
Bronchitis	143	7	3	-	3	38	92
Pneumonia	98	33	5	3	6	23	28
Other Respiratory Diseases	24	-	1	1	2	11	9
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	19	-	-	-	2	10	7
Diarrhoea under 2 years	24	24	-	-	-	-	-
Appendicitis	7	1	-	2	2	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	40	1	-	2	4	15	18
Nephritis	53	-	-	-	11	22	20
Puerperal Sepsis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	7	-	-	-	7	-	-
Premature Birth	24	24	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, etc.	41	37	1	1	-	1	1
Suicide	11	-	-	-	3	6	2
Road Traffic Accidents	14	-	1	7	2	1	3
Other Violent Accidents	20	3	1	2	4	6	4
All Other Causes	140	7	2	1	20	15	95

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

##### (1). Population.

Owing to the changes which have taken place since the last full Census, it is impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy the population as at June, 1945. It is to be remembered that several million persons were serving with the Armed Forces in different parts of the world, and many others had been directed to work away from their homes.

The Registrar General has supplied a figure of 146,820 upon which calculations of mortality rates can be based. Local sources of information suggest that this figure, though probably correct for the date it is intended to represent, has now been greatly exceeded. It will be surprising if the actual population for the end of year 1945 does not exceed the 150,000 mark.

##### (2). Births.

The year 1944 had a birth rate of 21.5 per thousand which was a record for 21 years. The nett total births for 1945 fell to 2,918 giving a birth rate of 19.8 per thousand. The corresponding birth rate for England and Wales was 16.1 and that for the great towns 19.1

Last year attention was drawn to a disconcerting increase in the number of illegitimate births during the war years. The percentage figures since 1939 are as follows:—

1939 — 3.05	1942 — 5.22
1940 — 3.42	1943 — 5.02
1941 — 4.84	1944 — 5.98
1945 — 7.19	

Still births for the year numbered 138.

##### (3). Deaths.

The nett deaths appertaining to the District amounted to 1,712 giving a death rate of 12.3 per thousand as compared with 11.4 for England and Wales and 13.5 for the great towns.

Although the year was entirely free from serious epidemics the total deaths from all causes showed an increase

of 96 over the year 1944. Almost the whole of this increase occurred in persons in the higher age groups and particularly those aged 65 and over. There were 52 more deaths from Heart Disease, 32 more from Bronchitis and Pneumonia and 23 more deaths from Cancer. These are diseases prone to attack persons past middle life, and it does seem that the stress and strain of the past six years has lowered the resistance of people in this category and rendered them more vulnerable to attack and less capable of withstanding illness.

#### **(4). Infant Mortality.**

The number of children who died before attaining the age of 12 months was 141. Of this number, 48 succumbed in the first week of life, and 57 before the end of the fourth week. This gives an infant mortality rate of 48 deaths under one year per thousand births, and neo-natal mortality of 16. Although this is not the lowest infant mortality rate ever recorded in Wolverhampton, it is only slightly above the record of 46 for the year 1942. The infant mortality for 1945 for the whole of England and Wales was 46 and for the 126 large towns it was 54. It is interesting to note that the number of deaths certified as due to prematurity fell from 49 in 1944 to 24 in 1945. Possibly this can be correlated with the special efforts introduced last year to save premature babies.

### **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

#### **(a) Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

In my last report attention was called to the increasing duties and responsibilities which had devolved upon Welfare Authorities since 1938 and to the steady rise in the birth rate since 1940. As most of these duties had to be carried out by the Corporation's Health Visiting Staff it was decided that the establishment of Health Visitors should be increased from 9 to 15 as soon as suitable fully qualified women became available, and that as an interim measure trained nurses not exceeding five in number without the Health Visitor's Certificate should be engaged to supplement the work performed both inside and outside the Welfare Centres.

It was also decided to establish two exhibitions for Pupil Health Visitors at the Birmingham Training School. Exhibitioners would be paid a salary of approximately £200 a year for their first year's service. During the initial 7½ months of this period they would receive practical and theoretical training at Birmingham. If they then succeed in passing the Health Visitors Examination they would complete their year as fully trained Health Visitors in Wolverhampton. They would also have to agree to serve a further year with the Wolverhampton Corporation, if required, at the full salary payable under the Rushcliffe Scale. (As there were no vacancies for the Birmingham course until September 1946, the above scheme could not come into operation in the year under review).

At the end of 1945 the Clinic Health Visiting Staff comprised:

One Superintendent Health Visitor.

Eight trained Health Visitors.

Three temporary Clinic Nurses.

(One trained Health Visitor was still absent on War Service).

Dealing first with home visits to mothers and infants, these included 2,777 first visits to new babies, 3,664 revisits, 6,559 visits to toddlers and 2822 special visits. In addition the Staff attended 1,495 Infant Welfare Clinics during the year. All these Welfare Centres continue to be well patronised and the average attendance per session was 31.

It is necessary once more to call attention to the serious falling off in the attendance of children over one year of age which now averages only 25% of the total. This feature was particularly noticable at the centres serving the poorer districts of the town.

Seven Clinic sessions for expectant mothers are held each week viz. one at each of three centres, and two at the others. There were 1,177 new cases registered during 1945 and the total attendances amounted to 6,645. Whenever possible,



## II

the Municipal Midwife for the district attends the Clinic on the days when cases who have booked her for their confinements are being examined.

In August 1945, the Corporation decided to withdraw their subsidy to the Local Family Planning Association and further resolved " That any family planning advice necessary or desirable so far as our own Clinics are concerned be in charge only of our own Medical Department."

### (b) Midwives.

The total number of Midwives who notified their intention to practise in the area of the Wolverhampton Local Supervising Authority during 1945 was made up as follows:—

*Trained Midwives working in Institutions	... 31
Municipal Midwives	... 18
Trained Midwives working independently	... 9

\*This number includes Matrons of Institutions who do not normally practise Midwifery.

As compared with 1942/43 there was a slight reduction in the number of confinements attended by Municipal Midwives, which amount to 1,181. This drop is partly accounted for by a fall in the birth rate. The average number of Midwives engaged in domiciliary work for the Corporation during the year was 16 and the average number of cases attended was 74. One Municipal Midwife died early in November after a prolonged illness, and two other Midwives left the Corporation Service at the end of October. One Midwife performed relief duties for three months in the summer, and one joined the staff in a temporary capacity in December. The full establishment of Municipal Midwives is 18 but it has been impossible to maintain this figure during the war years owing to shortage of trained staff available.

No action became necessary during the year under Section E of the rules of the Central Midwives Board.

To date it has not been possible to equip Corporation Midwives with apparatus for Gas and Air Anaesthesia. Owing to shortage of staff none of them can be spared to take the



necessary course of training. There is also the difficulty of transporting the relatively heavy equipment from house to house as required.

(c) **Maternal Mortality.**

During the year there were six maternal deaths, one of which was due to Puerperal Sepsis, and five to other Puerperal causes. This gives a maternal mortality rate of 2.0 per 1,000 births.

The circumstances of each maternal death have been thoroughly investigated and a summary of each case sent to the Ministry of Health. Ante-natal care was adequate in each case. The certified causes of death in the non-infective cases were as follows:—

- (a) Eclampsia.
- (b) Post Partum Haemorrhage.
- (c) Post Partum Haemorrhage.
- (d) Cerebral Haemorrhage.
- (e) Toxaemia.

(d) **Municipal Maternity Homes — “The Beeches.”**

	1945
Number of confinements ... ..	221
„ „ cases for which a doctor was booked	180
„ „ cases in which no doctor was booked	38
„ „ cases of Puerperal Pyrexia ... .	11
„ „ still-births ... ..	3
„ „ deaths of mothers in the Home ...	—
„ „ deaths of babies in the Home ...	1

In the month of April four patients developed symptoms of Puerperal Pyrexia and it was considered advisable to close the Home to admissions as a precautionary measure. Two of the patients were transferred to the Septic block in the Women's Hospital for treatment, and the others remained in “The Beeches” until they were ready to be sent home, the last patient being discharged on April 23rd.

Swabs were taken from the noses and throats of all members of the staff and four were reported positive to Haemolytic Streptococci. The Home was closed from April 13th to April 27th, and the patients who had booked to go in during

the last fortnight in April were immediately informed that they could not be admitted, and arrangements were made with a private maternity home in the town to accept such cases as were willing to have their bookings transferred. In all, 13 cases who had booked to go into "The Beeches" for confinements were compelled to make other arrangements owing to this unavoidable closure for 14 days.

(e) **Ante-natal Care.**

As was to be expected the number of deliveries taking place in the Borough during 1945 shows a considerable decrease when compared with the figure for 1944 owing to the drop in the birth rate. The comparable figures were 4,106 in 1944 and 3,440 in 1945. This decrease is reflected in the number who attended the Municipal Ante-natal Clinics. In 1945 there were 217 fewer than in 1944.

Decreases are also shown in the number attending the Ante-natal Clinic at New Cross Hospital and in the number confined in Nursing Homes. Otherwise the figures in the following table approximate very closely to those of 1944. It is satisfactory to note that out of the 3,440 deliveries 2,950 are known to have had ante-natal care by a Doctor.

		1945
Total number of deliveries in Borough ...	...	<u>3,440</u>
„ „ Attending Ante-natal Clinics ...	...	1,177
„ „ Ante-natal Exams under Ante-natal Scheme (Drs.) ...	...	627
„ „ Attending Women's Hospital Clinic Ante-natal ...	...	131
„ „ Attending New Cross Ante-Natal Clinic ...	...	280
„ „ Confined in Nursing Homes who engaged a Doctor ...	...	462
„ „ Confined at home known to have engaged a Doctor ...	...	225
„ „ Living in and confined in Institutions under care of a Doctor ...	...	48
		<hr/> 2,950 <hr/>

(f) **Nursing Homes.**

In December 1945, one Nursing Home with 16 medical or surgical beds closed down thus reducing the number of Homes to ten, providing 40 maternity beds and 10 medical or surgical beds. At the end of the year, however, negotiations were taking place with a view to re-opening this Home for medical cases only. The chief difficulty in all the Homes continues to be one of staffing, and considering the shortage of Nurses available for all types of medical work, that fact does not cause surprise. The standard of efficiency in all the Homes has been reasonably well maintained.

(g) **War Time Nurseries.**

During the year the three Nurseries continued to provide a very useful and welcome service for working mothers. The appreciation felt by those mothers although not often publicly expressed is nevertheless genuine and this is especially true among those who for one reason or another are dependent on their earnings. It is a great relief to them to know that their children are safe and happy. The attendances have been well maintained as the following table shows:—

	The Wooldands.	Marston Road	Elston Hall.
Number of days open during year ...	261	261	259
Attendances under 2 years	4,207	3,051	2,828
Attendances 2—5 years ...	10,458	5,838	5,721
Average daily attendance under			
2 years ...	16.12	11.69	10.92
„ „ „ 2 to 5 years	40.07	22.37	22.09

(The above attendances include Monday to Friday only).

Immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out as follows:—

	The Woodlands.	Marston Road.	Elston Hall.
Number of children already immunised on admission	26	16	9
Number of children immunised in Nursery	41	11	13
Number of refusals	1	Nil	Nil

Immunisation against Whooping Cough was carried out as follows:—

	The Woodlands.	Marston Road.	Elston Hall.
Number of children reported to have had Whooping Cough on admission	5	3	5
Number immunised against Whooping Cough in the Nursery	66	15	15
Number of refusals	2	Nil	Nil

The continued freedom of the Nurseries from outbreaks of Whooping Cough is significant. During the year there was no case of Whooping Cough either at Marston Road or at The Woodlands Day Nurseries. At Elston Hall Day Nursery two children who had been immunised, developed coughs which were very suspicious of Whooping Cough. They also developed other symptoms pointing to a diagnosis of that disease. Since neither child came to the Nursery by bus and since all the other children in the Nursery were immunised it was decided to try the experiment of allowing them to continue attending the Nursery in order to find out whether or not there would be a spread of infection among the other children. Both children were well enough to do this since the attack, if it were Whooping Cough, was very mild in each case. No other child in the Nursery was affected.

Outbreaks of other infectious diseases were confined to Measles. There were 25 cases of Measles at the Woodlands Nursery, 24 cases at Marston Road Nursery and 13 cases

at Elston Hall Nursery. The only other infectious disease which occurred was Mumps of which there were three cases at Marston Road Nursery.

During the winter months children from Elston Hall and The Woodlands were regularly conveyed to the Orthopaedic Clinic at Ward Street for artificial sunlight treatment. Children at Marston Road took advantage of the U.V.R. Lamp provided by the Villiers Engineering Company.

**(h) Care of the Unmarried Mother and Illegitimate Child.**

This is at present undertaken by the Superintendent Health Visitor but it is intended to give another member of the staff special training in this important social work as soon as more Health Visitors are available and one can be seconded for the course.

**(i) Care of Premature Infants.**

Some progress has been made in the scheme for the care of premature infants during the year. The equipment recommended in Ministry of Health Circular 20/44 has been obtained and is loaned to suitable cases. During 1945 it was used for 11 separate premature infants. Although the Women's Hospital possesses one incubator for premature babies, the town still lacks a special ward or unit for them. Those born in hospital can be retained there for special supervision, but Wolverhampton possesses no special accommodation for premature infants born on the district.

During the summer the Inspector of Midwives was sent to take a refresher course at the Sorrento Maternity Hospital on the care of the premature infant and thereafter she was responsible for guiding Midwives and assisting mothers.

From the 14th day after confinement each Health Visitor has been responsible for the further care of premature infants in her own district, and she has also looked after premature infants discharged from hospitals or nursing homes.

There were 176 live births reported in which the weight of the infant was under  $5\frac{1}{2}$  pounds. Forty-seven of these

were born at home, and 129 in hospitals or institutions. Of the 129 born in hospital, 85 were alive at the end of the first month, and of the 47 on the district 34 survived the first month.

**(j) Home Helps.**

It was possible to revive the Home Help Scheme on a limited scale during 1945. Three whole time Home Helps were appointed and received a salary of £3 a week when employed as such, with a retaining fee at the rate of 20/- a week when their services were not required. The Home Help attends at the mother's home for a maximum period of twelve days (excluding Sunday) from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. or for such lesser period as may be required. Her duties include looking after the children, cooking for the family and carrying out the normal domestic work of the household. She is not permitted or required to undertake any nursing duties.

Home Helps were supplied to 19 different families during the twelve months. Owing to the shortage of suitable women it has not yet been possible to extend the Home Help scheme to assistance in the home during illness (apart from confinement).

**(k) Infant Life Protection.**

Each Health Visitor is appointed Infant Life Protection Visitor for her own district. There were 21 individual Foster Mothers registered with the Authority at the end of the year who were looking after 24 children under the age of 9 years.

During 1945 forty-nine babies have been under supervision with forty-seven Foster Mothers. Three of these reached the age of nine years during the year and several were with the Foster Mother for a short period only.

Five of the children have been adopted — three have been placed in Institutions — twelve returned to the mother or other relations — two died in New Cross Hospital.

Sixty-seven visits have been paid and twenty-two to prospective Foster Mothers.



### (1) Adoption Orders.

The number of investigations made and homes visited during the year was forty-eight, of these, Orders were made for forty-seven adoptions, one being adjourned because the adoptive father was under the age of twenty-five.

In addition to those adopted within the Borough, arrangements were made for four Borough children to be adopted outside the Borough.

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## SECTION C.

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### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

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#### (1) Meteorology.

The year 1945 had a relatively cool summer without any prolonged spell of warm weather. There was one short period of extreme cold during the end of January and the beginning of February, but this was not accompanied by any considerable degree of precipitation. The coldest night was January 28/29th when 17.2 degrees of frost were registered.

The total rainfall for the year was considerably below the average and measured only 23.19" against a mean of 27.08" for the past 65 years. The wettest months were May and June with a total combined rainfall of 5.95." January and November were the driest months.

Winds from a Northerly or Easterly direction were chiefly prevalent in January, February, September and December.

#### (2) Water Supply.

The Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking provides water supplies over an area very considerably bigger than the town itself. During 1945 the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity.



Samples of water were regularly taken in connection with the Corporation supply, each sample being submitted for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination. During the year 36 samples were submitted for chemical analysis and 38 for bacteriological examination.

All the reports on the chemical samples were satisfactory, and 36 of the 38 bacteriological samples were free from presumptive *B.coli.* per 100 ml. The other two contained presumptive *B.coli.* not exceeding 1 or 2 per 100 ml.

The Water Engineer informs me that his staff procured 183 additional samples of water going into supply for examination in their own laboratories, and that only 7 of these contained presumptive *B.coli.* per 100 ml. Differential tests revealed that none of these presumptive *B.coli.* samples were *B.coli. faecalis*. There were 56 samples of raw water taken and examined by the Water Engineer's Department before treatment at the source of supply. The water supply of the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking has no plumbo-solvent action and there has been no known contamination of the water going into supply after it has been treated at the supply works.

No figures are available in respect of the proportion of dwelling houses supplied direct from mains or from standpipes, but it is estimated that 1% of all the houses in the Borough derive their water from a standpipe outside in the yard, and that approximately 4% are supplied from taps over sinks in detached wash houses.

There were 119 cases of waste of water through defective water fittings referred to the Water Engineer.

### (3) **Storage and disposal of house Refuse.**

The maintenance and supply of dust bins to private houses is the responsibility of the Corporation. The cost is recovered from the owner by a levy included in the rates each half year. The charge for the whole of 1945 was one shilling per bin.

The Cleansing Department replaced 2,159 dilapidated dust bins during 1945 in spite of serious supply difficulties.

#### (4) Sanitary Conveniences.

A summary of the various types of sanitary conveniences other than water closets in use in the Borough at the end of 1945 is as follows:—

Privies or Privy Middens	...	...	...	6
Pail or Pan Closets	...	...	...	69
Pail or Pan Closets (at Race Course)	...	...	...	33
* Pail Closets (provided for temporary use)	...	...	...	7
Waste Water Closets	...	...	...	Nil
				<hr/>
Total				115
				<hr/>

\* During the progress of buildings or other external constructional works.

18 Trough Closets and 2 Pail Closets were converted to the clean water system during the year.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Full details of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspection Department are filed in the office for reference. Below will be found a brief description of the more important activities.

#### (1) Nuisances.

Apart from the notices served under the various statutory clauses giving powers to require particular amenities, 892 premises were reported to the Committee during the year, preparatory to the service of formal notices requiring abatement of nuisances.

#### (2) Shops Act, 1934.

There were 1,121 retail shops on the register, 3 wholesale shops and 2 warehouses. In 27 cases defective sanitary conveniences were discovered and 25 were remedied after service of notices.

#### (3) Overcrowding.

114 new cases of overcrowding were discovered of which 22 were abated.

#### (4) Extermination of Vermin.

There were 633 houses found infested with rats and 76 with mice. The Rat Exterminator paid 1,203 visits to premises, and the Sanitary Inspectors paid 219 visits. A total of 1,070 rats and 639 mice were destroyed by a variety of means.

#### (5) Verminous Persons.

Seven families comprising 11 persons were dealt with at the Corporation Cleansing Station during 1945. The routine procedure is one application of Benzyl Benzoate.

#### (6) Slaughterhouses.

The only licence issued and renewed annually, is in respect of the premises erected within the Borough some 12 years ago by one of the manufacturing Pork Butchers who originally owned a private slaughterhouse. The premises also comprise a modern factory for bacon curing and the whole are maintained in an excellent condition.

### SECTION D.

#### Housing Conditions : The Housing Acts 1925 — 1936.

Although action under Parts 2 and 3 of the Housing Act 1936 remained largely in abeyance during the year, three houses were demolished pursuant to demolition orders, and seven houses were pulled down in anticipation of formal action by the Corporation.

### SECTION E.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLY.

##### (a) MILK.

##### (i) Supervision and Registration of Purveyors and Premises:

The action necessary to bring and maintain producers' premises to the prescribed standard was continued throughout the year, with the result that miscellaneous improvements have been carried out to 3 existing cowsheds.

With regard to retailers' premises, 2 purveyors of milk have been provided with proper dairy premises, subsequent to the service of notices under the Milk and Dairies Order 1926. 3 new pasturising or sterilising plants, churn washing plants and improved bottling plant have been installed in four dairies.

Apart from the supervision of producers' premises by the Ministry's Veterinary Inspector, the various dairy farms and retailers' premises within the district are regularly visited by the Specialist Inspector; during the year 170 inspections of cowsheds and 640 inspections of dairies and milkshops were made.

(ii). Action taken re Biological Samples of Milk, 1945.

Grade of Milk.	Number of Samples submitted for Biological examination, 1945.	Number reported positive to Tubercle Baccilli.			Result of subsequent action under Tuberculosis Order, 1938.		Total Number of Bovines slaughtered at Abattoir under Order.		
		Produced within Borough.	Produced outside Borough.	Total.	Number of animals slaughtered.	Result of further sample.	From Premises within the Borough.	From Premises outside the Borough.	Total.
Tuberculin Tested.	2	-	-	-	-	-			
Heat Treated.	2	-	-	-	-	-			
Ungraded.	3	-	-	-	-	-			
Totals.	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	20	22*

\*Of this total, 13 cows were wholly condemned on account of advanced tuberculosis.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(i) Public Abattoir.

The personnel employed at the Abattoir consists of one Inspector, two Assistant Inspectors who attend on alternative days and one temporary clerk.

The amount of meat and offals condemned was 268 tons 14 cwts. 2 qrs. 27 lbs. Of this total 100 tons 10 cwts. 2 qrs.

14lbs. consisted of meat and 168 tons 4 cwts. 1 qr. 13 lbs. of offals. This is a decrease of 7 tons compared with last year.

The number of animals slaughtered — 93,336 — shows an increase of 10,879 over last year. 5,000 more cattle (other than cows) have been slaughtered; and increases in the number of calves and sheep are also recorded, 2,000 in each class. The number of cows slaughtered is down by 1,300 and pigs by 1,500.

22 cows were slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order 1938. Inspection was carried out in collaboration with the Veterinary Officer, and 13 cows were wholly condemned on account of advanced Tuberculosis — a decrease of 9.

The following table gives the percentage increase or decrease over 1944 in the number of diseased animals:—

	Cattle	Cows (other than Cattle).	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
All diseases except Tuberculosis ...	+ 0.11	- 11.12	+ 0.21	+ 0.78	- 10.99
Tuberculosis only ...	+ 2.59	- 3.41	- 0.12	—	- 6.06

## (ii) Food Shops and Food Stores.

Care is taken to ensure that articles of food exposed for sale within the various shops in the Borough are in a sound and wholesome condition; with this object in view, 221 visits were paid to butchers' shops, and 3,249 visits were paid to other food shops and stalls. As a result of these inspections, food voluntarily surrendered or officially seized and subsequently destroyed was 19 tons 3 cwts. 4 lbs. In addition 18 tons 4 cwts. 58 lbs. of food was found unfit for retail sale and referred to the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Food. Of this, the largest item was canned food 15 tons 16 cwts.

TABLE IV.

## FOODS AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

Administrative Action taken regarding Samples reported not to be genuine during the Year ending 31st December, 1945.

No. of Sample.	Article of Food.	Formal or Informal.	Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity.	Legal Proceedings Instituted.		Observations.
				Fine inflicted, £ s. d.	Costs imposed, £ s. d.	
11	Mustard	Formal	Deficient of Allyl iso-thiocyanate 28%			Manufacturers written to.
39	Bisurated magnesias	Informal	No formula on packet.			Formal sample genuine. Formal sample genuine.
63	Milk	do.	Deficient of fat 13%			
76	Gelatine	do.	Wheat and starchy matter 51%.			
97	Milk	do.	Extraneous water 6.12%			
98	Milk	do.	" " 9.41%			
99	Milk	do.	" " 2.35%			
100	Milk	do.	" " 5.41%			
101	Milk	do.	" " 11.30%			
102	Milk	do.	" " 6.71%			
103	Milk	do.	" " 1.53%			
104	Milk	Formal	Extraneous water 8.83%	4	0 0	Samples Nos. 104—110 were taken from same vendor.
105	Milk	do.	Deficient of Non fat solids 2%	4	0 0	
106	Milk	do.	Extraneous water 8.0%	4	0 0	
107	Milk	do.	" " 9.17%	4	0 0	
109	Milk	do.	" " 5.06%	4	0 0	
110	Milk	do.	" " 3.53%	4	0 0	
122	Saccharin tablets	Informal	Deficient in weight 11%			Formal sample genuine.
155	Apricot jam	do.	Deficient of fruit 22.5%			
165	Boric ointment	do.	Contained 10% Boric Acid instead of 10% B.P.			Formal samples taken.
169	Morning powder	do.	No label on container giving the constituent ingredients.			



(d) **The Food and Drugs Act, 1938.****Sampling.**

One hundred and seventy-seven samples of food and drugs were submitted for analysis by the Public Analyst, consisting of eighteen formal and one hundred and fifty-nine informal samples. Twenty-one samples (11.86%) consisting of seven formal samples and fourteen informal samples were found to be non-genuine or labelled or described in an unsatisfactory manner.

One hundred samples of milk were submitted for analysis. Twelve samples, five formal and seven informal, all taken from one producer, were found to contain extraneous water varying from 1.53% to 11.30%. Proceedings were instituted in respect of each of the five formal samples. The vendor was convicted and fined £4 on each charge, £20 in all, and £10 costs. One informal sample was found to be 13% deficient of the presumptive standard of 3% milk fat laid down by the Sale of Milk Regulations. A following-up sample was found to be genuine.

A sample of mustard was reported as being 28% deficient of Allyl iso-thiocyanate. The manufacturer was communicated with and further samples taken were found to be genuine.

A sample of gelatine submitted by a private purchaser was found to contain 51% of wheat and starchy matter. An official sample was reported as genuine.

A sample of Bisurated Magnesia and a sample of Morning powder infringed the labelling requirements of the Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941, inasmuch as the constituent ingredients were not stated upon the containers. The vendor in each case was cautioned.

**Preservatives.**

All samples submitted for analysis are examined for the presence of preservative substances. No prohibited preservatives or colouring matter were found and no preservative was found in any article of food to which the addition of a preservative of any description is prohibited.



## (e) Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.

Number of Persons Registered to Sell Poisons under  
Part II of Poisons List.

Number of Premises Listed.		Number of Persons concerned.		Visits paid during 1945.
During 1945	Total to date	During 1945	Total to date	
4	97	4	97	121.

## SECTION F.

## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

With the exception of Measles, the incidence of all the infectious diseases during the year 1945 remained as in the previous year at a comparatively low level. Measles incidence rose from 110 in 1944 to 2,173 this year. The cases were not severe and only two deaths occurred which is within normal expectations from the usual biennial wave of this disease.

There were 13 cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis but fortunately there were no deaths, and the possibility of an epidemic appears to have died down.

The steady decline in Diphtheria has been maintained, a welcome manifestation of the efficacy of immunisation. There were three deaths, two only being in children under 15 years of age, and all three unimmunised. The incidence of Diphtheria fell from 47 in 1944 to 31 in 1945.

**Scarlet Fever.**

Two hundred and five cases were notified during the year compared with 214 cases in 1944. The disease continues to be mild in character and there were no deaths from this disease. There was only one "Return" case.

**Diphtheria.**

There were 77 cases notified as Diphtheria, but 46 of these were subsequently revised giving a net incidence of 31 or .22 per 1000 of the population.

Diphtheria occurred in 18 immunised children but all made uninterrupted recoveries.

**Measles and Whooping Cough.**

Measles cases were 2,173 with two deaths compared with 110 cases in 1944 and 2,098 in 1943. This is within normal limits of the usual biennial rise.

Whooping Cough notifications were 346 being 41 more than in 1944 but only one death occurred compared with three in 1944.

### Enteric Fever and Dysentery.

Three cases notified as Typhoid Fever were all subsequently revised. There were 29 cases of Dysentery all of the Sonn  type and all recovered.

### Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.

Thirteen cases of this disease were notified, one of which was later revised. There were no deaths. All cases at the Borough Hospital were transferred for Orthopaedic treatment as soon as the infectious stage was passed.

### VACCINATION.

Total No. of Certificates of Successful Vaccinations received during the year.	Total No. of Exemptions re- ceived during the year.	Total No. of Certificates of Insusceptibility.	No. of Births returned in the Birth List Sheets during the year.
1,446	1,505	14	3,461.

### Percentage of Successful Vaccinations to Births.

1938 — 24.6%

1944 — 48%

1945 — 41.7%

### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

A total of 1,994 children were immunised during 1945. Grouped according to their ages the numbers are:—

0 — 5 years ...	...	1,636
5 — 10 years ...	...	266
10 — 15 years ...	...	92
		-----
Total ...		1,994
		-----

A total of 21,972 children born since 1930 have now been fully immunised. The effect of this preventive aspect of medicine is now manifesting itself in a very satisfactory manner.

During the period 1940 to 1941 there was a mild epidemic of Diphtheria in one area of the town which temporarily raised the number of cases and deaths, but except for this short outbreak the incidence and deaths have steadily fallen since 1936 onwards. (See chart).

Year	Number of cases			Deaths		
1936	...	...	190	...	...	21
1937	...	...	170	...	...	18
1938	...	...	102	...	...	6
1939	...	...	86	...	...	7
1940	...	...	159	Epidemic	...	23
1941	...	...	162	Years.	...	21
1942	...	...	82	...	...	5
1943	...	...	43	...	...	5
1944	...	...	47	...	...	4
1945	...	...	31	...	...	3

### BOROUGH INFECTIOUS DISEASE HOSPITAL.

	Scarlet Fever.		Other Diphtheria. Diseases.		Total.
Cases in Hospital on January 1st, the year	...	...	...	...	...
Cases admitted during the year	119	105	132	356	
Cases admitted from outside					
Districts	...	...	...	...	...
Diagnosis revised	...	...	...	...	...
Returned cases	...	...	...	...	...
<hr/>					
Total cases discharged during the year	...	...	...	...	...
Average duration of treatment...	23 days	36 days	13 days	—	
Average number of beds occupied	6.9	11.0	5.7	23.6	
Cases in Hospital, December					
31st, 1945	...	...	...	...	...
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...

The above figures refer to all cases admitted to the Borough Hospital and not solely to Wolverhampton ones.

Although the problem of staffing has been felt acutely by most hospitals during the war period, it has been possible throughout the year to maintain a nursing staff adequate for the number of beds occupied.

Fortunately there have been no epidemics and the number of patients admitted has been comparatively low.

Three hundred and fifty-six cases were admitted during the year; 93 were from outside areas including 60 from the Forces.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Admissions of Scarlet Fever numbered 119, and of these, 13 were from other Authorities. Two were later revised to Urticaria. One case admitted as Diphtheria and one as Measles were revised to that of Scarlet Fever.

All proved to be a mild form of the disease and no deaths occurred.

There was one "return case" giving a rate of under 1 %.

### **Diphtheria.**

One hundred and five cases notified as Diphtheria were admitted but 36 of these were from outside areas. In sixty-three of these cases the diagnosis was subsequently revised. Of the 42 cases finally diagnosed as Diphtheria 11 were from outside the Borough, the remaining 31 being the total number of cases occurring in Wolverhampton.

The number of cases in which the original diagnosis was revised (60%) is high but this is a very desirable indication that Doctors are sending into hospital patients only suspected as being diphtheria without waiting for swab results or for the clinical manifestations of the disease to develop. It is better that the revision rate should be high rather than cases should arrive in Hospital too late for effective treatment.

Of these 42 cases of clinical Diphtheria 18 were immunised and the remaining 24 had no history of immunisation. The 18 immunised cases all recovered without any complications arising.

There were four deaths, all occurring in the 24 unimmunised patients, giving a case mortality rate of 16.6% as compared with the nil death rate in the immunised. Of these four fatal cases, 2 were adults and 2 were children aged 4 and 6 years respectively. One of the adults, a soldier, was

admitted in the sixth week of the disease when the diaphragm was already partially paralysed. The two children were both cases of severe Laryngeal Diphtheria and tracheotomy was performed in both cases.

	Age and Sex Incidence.				
	0 — 5 yrs.	5 — 10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	Over 15 yrs.	Total.
Males	3	7	4	8	22
Females	2	6	2	10	20
Total	5	13	6	18	42

## OTHER DISEASES.

### Measles.

39 cases were treated, 8 of which were complicated with pneumonia. There were 3 deaths in the pneumonia cases. One had Encephalo-myelitis as a complication but recovered.

### Acute Anterior Myelitis.

13 cases were admitted including 2 notified as Cerebro Spinal Fever. All cases were transferred to the Orthopaedic Clinic when the infectious period was passed. There were no fatal cases.

### Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Eleven patients were admitted notified as suffering from Cerebro-Spinal Fever but 10 of these were revised as follows:—

Polio Encephalitis	...	...	2
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	...	...	2
Glioma	...	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	...	2
Stomatitis	...	...	1
Cerebral Thrombosis	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	1

All these cases recovered with the exception of the patient with Glioma who died soon after admission. The single case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever made a good recovery.

**Typhoid Fever.**

Three cases admitted but finally revised to:—

Influenza	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	1

**Dysentery.**

Five were notified one of which was revised to Colitis. The four Dysentery cases were all Sonn  type and all recovered.

**Gastro Enteritis.**

Seven children were admitted with severe Gastro Enteritis. Five made a good recovery, but two died. both within a few hours after admission.

**Miscellaneous.**

Other diseases treated during the year included:—

Mumps	...	...	18 (All from Forces).
Whooping Cough	...	7	(One died with Convulsions).
Erysipelas	...	...	7 (All recovered).
Chicken Pox	...	...	5
Rubella	...	...	3

**TUBERCULOSIS.****(i) Notification.**

The notifications remaining on the Case Register at the end of the year were as follows:—

<b>Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</b>		<b>Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.</b>	
Males ... 444	Females ... 280	Males ... 89	Females ... 83

New cases notified during 1945 amounted to 177 and were made up as follows:—

**Respiratory Tuberculosis.**

Males	...	...	109 (123)	Females	...	...	50 (64)
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**Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis.**

Males	...	...	10 (15)	Females	...	...	8 (13)
-------	-----	-----	---------	---------	-----	-----	--------



(The corresponding figures for 1944 are shown in brackets).

(ii) **Incidence.**

New cases notified in 1945 amounted to 177. The age of maximum incidence in males was between 25 and 35 years, whereas in females it was between 15 and 25 years.

(iii) **Deaths.**

There was little change in the number of deaths as compared with the previous year. The numbers are as follows.

Respiratory Tuberculosis:	Males ... 53	Females ... 28
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis:	Males ... 8	Females ... 3

## **VENEREAL DISEASES.**

A slight fall was observed in the number of new cases of Syphilis presenting themselves at the treatment centre, in fact this was the lowest number for four years. On the other hand the new cases of Gonorrhea showed the reverse effect.

The defaulter rate was 5% in the case of Syphilis (males 5.2%, females 4.8%). The corresponding rate in cases of Gonorrhea was 3.6% (males 1%, females 8.4%). This last figure cannot be considered at all satisfactory.

### **Regulation 33B.**

No person was named more than once. The following summary gives the results achieved:

The cases notified once:—

V.D. Gonorrhea    Males — none    Females — 15

V.D. Syphilis      Males — none    Females — 1

Cases untraced (insufficient address or description) — 8.

Cases notified to attend for interview — 8 females.

Cases interviewed — 4 females.

Cases referred to Clinic — 4.

